

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Attorney, Mr. Steven H. Noll, on 09/22/2008.

2. **In the claims** of Amendment filed on 07/07/08:

**Claim 47**, line 7, "impairment4" has been replaced by - - impairment - -;

**Claim 14**, line 28, "according" has been deleted.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

3. **Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-24, and 26-48** are allowed which have been re-numbered to as 1, 2, 4-14, 15-22, and 23-45 respectively.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 9, 17, and 22, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed limitations with the reasons set forth in the Applicant's Remarks filed on September 07, 2008, pages 25-28.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Con P. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7532. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Vivian C. Chin can be reached on (571) 272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/CPT/

September 29, 2008

/Vivian Chin/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2615